JA 0310103 0EC 1990

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(54) TREAD SKIN OF PNEUMATIC TIRE

(11) 2-310108 (A) (43) 25.12.1990 (19) JP

(21) Appl. No. 64-132146 (22) 24.5.1989

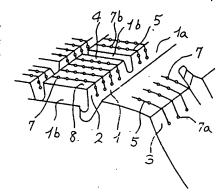
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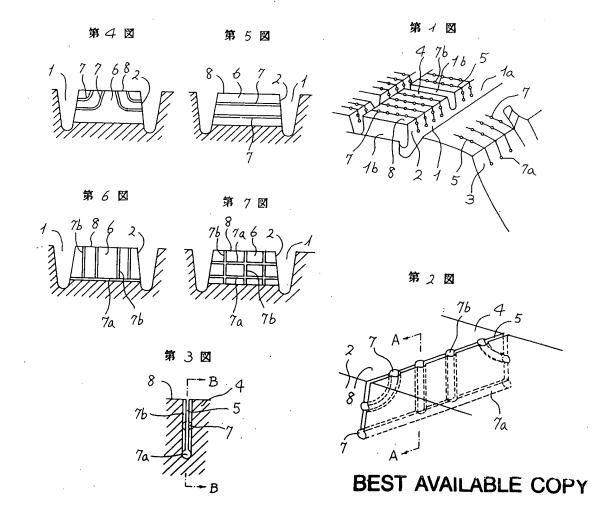
(51) Int. Cl⁵. B60C11/12//B60C11/11

PURPOSE: To secure good drain performance by forming striations on the inner wall face of sipes formed on the islands of a tread, and having at least one end of striations opened to the wall face of groove parts or buttress parts

to open the striations when the sipes are clogged up.

CONSTITUTION: Groove parts 1 and island parts 4 are formed on a tread 8. On the island part 4, a plural number of sipes 5 extending in the cross section of a tire are formed, and at least one end of respective sipes is opened to the wall face 2 of the groove part 1. In this case, striations 7 are formed on the inner wall face 6 of the sipes 5. At least one end of the striations 7 is opened to the wall face 2 of the groove part 1 or to buttress parts 3, or other striations 7 opened to them, so that the striations 7 remains open even when the sipes 5 are closed with the tread 8 due to the load at grounding to secure drainage from the tread 8 to the groove part 1 or the buttress part 3.





PTO 99-1729

S.T.I.C. Translations Branch

⑩日本国特許庁(JP)

⑩特許出願公開

⑩ 公開特許公報(A)

平2-310108

Sint. Cl. 5
B 60 C 11/12

識別記号

庁内整理番号

❸公開 平成2年(1990)12月25日

B 60 C 11/12 # B 60 C 11/11 7006-3D 7006-3D

審査請求 未請求 請求項の数 2 (全6頁)

会発明の名称 空気

空気入りタイヤのトレッド外皮

②特 願 平1-132146

20出 願 平1(1989)5月24日

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明 細 書

1. 発明の名称

空気入りタイヤのトレッド外皮

2. 特許請求の範囲

(2) タイヤのトレッド表面にトレッド溝を有し、 抜トレッド溝により囲まれ、または抜トレッド溝 とバットレス部により囲まれたトレッド陸部に、 少なくとも一端が抜トレッド溝の壁面またはバッ トレス部に開口するサイブを有する空気入りタイ

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ヤのトレッド外皮において、対向して該サイブの 内側面を形成するサイブ内壁面に、幅がサイブ 見つ浅く、略タイヤ径方向に延び、一端がサイブ と共に路面に開口する吸水細溝と、幅が細く且つ 浅く、タイヤ路面と略平行に延び、少なくとも一 機が該トレッド溝の壁面またはバットレス部の は がは大田溝に連通したことを特徴とする空気入 りタイヤのトレッド外皮。

3. 発明の詳細な説明

[産業上の利用分野]

本発明は氷雪路及び湿潤路における駆動及び制 動性能に優れたタイヤのトレッドに関するもので ある。

〔従来の技術〕

世来のタイヤの氷雪路及び湿潤路における駆動、 制動性能を改善する方法としては、トレッド表面 のサイブ密度を高め、路面部の剛性を低下させ、 設置性を向上し、摩擦係数を大きくすると共にサ イブのエッジ効果による水膜の破壊とサイブ部か らの排水効果を高める方法、路面部の全面硬に対するトレッド溝とサイプのトレッド表面へ開口面 破の割合を大きくすることにより、排水効果を高 める方法が一般的に用いられている。

これらのサイブには、その両端がトレッドの周 溝又は憤潺に連通する開放形サイブ、その両端が 周溝等に連通せず独立する独立形サイブ、その一 端のみが周溝等に連通する半開放形サイブがある。

タイヤの幅方向のサイブを増やすことによりタイヤのを はないできるが、サイブは接地負荷時にトレッドゴムの変形により 閉鎖され易く、排水性のできるが、カイブは を り が 水 は か は か な き 効果は少なく、 湿 間路における 駆動、 制動性能の改善効果は小さい。またサイブを多くすることにより、 排水効果を上げようとすると、 タイヤ にレッドの剛性が極端に低下し、 操縦安定性が発すると共に、 非凍結路の走行では偏摩耗を誘発する。

このため、トレッドの剛性を低下させずに路面 部の排水効果を高める方法として、実公昭53-

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プの終端又は中間に逃げ穴を設けても、サイブは接地面において閉じてしまうため、これらの径方向サイブや逃げ穴だけでは接地時にサイブからのの排水効果は多くは期待できず、サイブ密度を非常に大きくしない限り、氷雪路及び湿潤路における駆動、制動性能を改善することはできず、タイヤの提級安定性、耐摩耗性と両立させることは困難である。

従って、本発明はサイブが接地面で閉鎖してもその排水性を確保することができ、サイブ密度をあまり高めることなく、氷質路及び程潤路における駆動、制動性能を改善し、タイヤの操縦安定性と耐摩耗性、耐偏摩耗性が低下することのないタイヤを提供することを目的とする。

(問題点を解決するための手段)

上記目的を遠成すべく、本発明者は鋭度研究を 重ねた結果、サイブの少なくとも一端をタイヤの 周溝の側面またはバットレス部に開放し、そのサ イブの内側側面に少なくとも一端が周溝の側面に 開放される細い溝を設けることにより、接地面で 2 2 8 8 3 号には、タイヤの幅方向に延びる複数のサイブと交差するタイヤ周方向に延びるサイブとでもれぞれ主講と連通しない独立形サイブとして設けることにより、トレッドの剛性を高く保ち、接地時にサイブ内の空気をタイヤ周方向のサイブ内を通じて遊がしてサイブ内の圧力を下げ、路面の水酸の水をサイブ内に吸収して湿潤路における駆動、制動性能を高めることを開示する。

また特開昭 6 1 - 2 6 1 1 0 9 号公報には、トレッド 陸部に 周 方向海からタイヤの 幅方向に 延び 径が サイブを設け、そのサイブの切込みの 終端又は中間に、タイヤ径方向に 延び径が サイブの 切込み 長さの 略全長にわたって 均一 本 と することができ、 氷 雪路及び 湿潤路における 駆 計 が は し うることが 開示されている。

[発明が解決しようとする問題点]

上記トレッド表面に設けたタイヤの幅方向サイブを繋ぐ径方向サイブを設けたり、半開放形サイ

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サイブが閉鎖されても、サイブの内側の細溝を通 じて排水することができ、排水効果が非常に高ま ることを見出し、本発明を完成するに至った。

また他の本発明はタイヤのトレッド表面にトレッド溝を有し、版トレッド溝により囲まれ、または版トレッド溝とバットレス部により囲まれたトレッド陣部に、少なくとも一端が版トレッド溝の壁面またはバットレス部に開口するサイブを有す

る空気入りタイヤのトレッド外皮において、対向 して該サイブの内側両を形成するサイブが整 面に、幅が細く且つ茂く、略タイヤ径方向に延び、 一端がサイブと共に路面に開口する吸水細溝とび、 場が細く且つ茂く、タイヤ路面と略平行に延び、 少なくとも一端が抜トレッド溝の壁面またはバットレス部にサイブと共に開口する排水細溝を整数と な吸水細溝は該排水細溝に連通したことを特数と する空気入りタイヤのトレッド外皮を要冒とする。

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次に本発明の内容を図面により詳細に説明する。 第1図は本発明のタイヤのトレッド外皮の一部の 斜視図、第2図は同一部(サイブ部分)拡大斜視 図、第3図は同AA斯面図、第4~7図は同BB 断面図である。(1)はタイヤのトレッド表面に設け られたトレッド溝であって、タイヤの略周方向に 延びる周溝(1a)および略タイヤの幅方向に延びる 慣溝(1b)よりなる。 (資溝(1b)は周溝(1a)とバットレス部 (3)を繋ぐように、 或いは周溝(1a)とバットレス部 (3)を繋ぐように設けられている。また慢溝(1b)は 一端のみが周溝(1a)またはバットレス部(3)に通じ

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すように半円形とすることができる。細溝(7)の幅 および架さはとくに限定はないが、細溝(7)の幅は サイブ(5)の幅の1.5~8倍、細溝(7)の深さはサイ ブ(5)の幅の0.2~4倍とするのが好ましい。

サイプ内壁面(6)における細欝(7)の配置は種々の 配置が可能であり、例えば第4~6図のような配 置が実施慇様として挙げられる。第4図では細溝 (7)は途中で湾曲して一端がトレッド溝壁面(2)又は バットレス部(3)にサイプ(5)と共に開口し、他端は トレッド陸邸(4)の路面(8)に開口する。第5図の実 施態様では、細溝(7)は路面(8)に平行に直線状に配 置され、その両端がトレッド構璧面(2)またはバッ トレス部(3)にサイブ(5)と共に開口する。第6図の 実施態様では、サイブ(5)の底部に沿って路面(8)に 平行に配設した排水細溝 (7a)を設けその両端をト レッド溝壁面(2)またはパットレス部(3)に開口する。 排水細溝(7a)に対して直角に複数の吸水細溝(7b) を設け、吸水細溝(7b)の一端はサイブ(5)と共に路 面(8)に開口し、他鑽は排水細溝(?a)に連通する。 第7図の実施腹様では、複数の互いに平行な排水

ていてもよい。トレッド裸(1)は必ずしも周溝(1a)と横溝(1b)により構成される必要はなく、トレッド溝(1)によってトレッドの路面部が複数のトレッド陸部に分割されておればよい。このトレッド溝(1)またはトレッド溝(1)とバットレス部(3)に囲まれたトレッド陸部(4)には、略タイヤの幅方向に延びる幅の狭い溝よりなるサイブ(5)を複数本設ける。サイブの少なくとも一端はトレッド溝(1)の壁面(2)に開口する。

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細構 (7a)と複数の互いに平行な吸水細溝 (7b)を互いに交わり連通するようにように設けてある。

サイプ内壁面(6) における細溝(7) の配置は上記実施態様に限定されるものではなく、細溝(7) の少なくとも一端がトレッド溝壁面(2) またはバットレス部(3) に開口するか、一端がそこに開口した細溝(7) に連通しておればよい。

(作用)

特開平 2-310108(4)

排水路が確保され、サイブ(5)の閉鎖後も引き続き 踏面部の水を排出することができ、湿潤路及び氷 置路における接地時のタイヤの路面把握力が高ま る。

〔寒施例〕

1 1

〔発明の効果〕

本発明の空気入りタイヤのトレッド外皮によれば、接地時の負荷によって路面(B) でサイブ(5) が閉じても細溝(7) は閉ることなく、路面(B) からトレスド溝(1) またはバットレス部(3) への排水路が確保、別続き路面の水を排出することができる。 温い おおよび 氷雪路における 駆動及び制動性能 くら をおよび 氷雪路における 駆動 皮が をあまり 大き に制動性能を高めることができ、 慢緩安 う 成ができまり、 はい 。

4. 図面の簡単な説明

第1図は本発明のトレッド外皮の一例の斜視図、第2図は同一部拡大斜視図、第3図は同AA店面図、第4~7図は同BB断面図である。第8図は本発明の実施例のトレッドバターンの展開図である。

- ①…トレッド溝、
- (1a)…周滑、
- (16)… 横溝、
- (2) "壁面、
- (3)・バットレス部、
- (4) …トレッド摩部、

	_							
	\$5	2	7 7	1	1	0	8 1 9 3	
	开赛	-	0.7×16			440	100	
~	(A)	က	0.7×16	2.0×5	2.0×3	440	130	
嵌	掲	2	0.7×16	1.5×4	2.0×3	440	122 121	
	嵌		0.7×16	1.5×1	3.0×1	440	119	
			アル	推 集 米	- ₩	イン数	把配件能指数 資料路 過過路	

1 2

(5) ….. サイプ、

(6) ….サイプ内壁面、

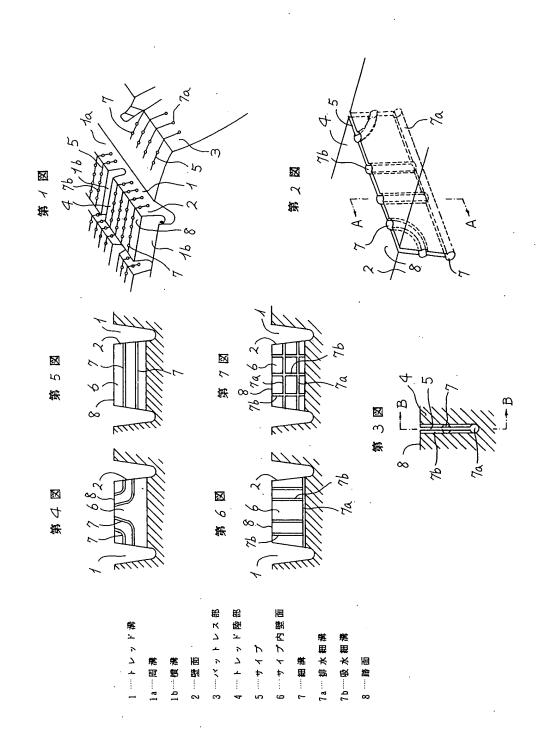
(9) em .m

(7a)…排水粗满、

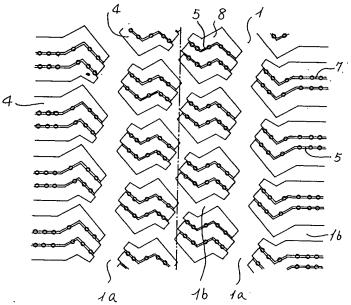
(7b)……吸水細溝、

(8) … 路面。

特許出願人 東洋ゴム工業株式会社 代理人 弁理士 小 山 義 之







PTO 99-1729

CY=JP DATE=19901225 KIND=A PN=02-310108

TREAD SKIN OF PNEUMATIC TIRE [KUKIIRI TAIYANO TOREDDO GAIHI]

Hiroshi Nakamura

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE Washington, D.C. March 1999

Translated by: FLS, Inc.

PUBLICATION COUNTRY .	(10):	JP
DOCUMENT NUMBER	(11):	
DOCUMENT KIND	(12):	A
PUBLICATION DATE	(43):	19901225
PUBLICATION DATE	(45):	
APPLICATION NUMBER	(21):	01132146
APPLICATION DATE	(22):	19890524
ADDITION TO	(61):	
INTERNATIONAL CLASSIFICATION	(51):	
DOMESTIC CLASSIFICATION	(52):	
PRIORITY COUNTRY	(33):	
PRIORITY NUMBER	(31):	
PRIORITY DATE	(32):	
INVENTORS	(72):	NAKAMURA, HIROSHI
APPLICANT	(71):	TOYO RUBBER CO LTD
TITLE	(54):	TREAD SKIN OF PNEUMATIC TIRE
FOREIGN TITLE	[54A]:	KUKIIRI TAIYANO TOREDDO GAIHI

1. Title

TREAD SKIN OF PNEUMATIC TIRE

2. Claims

[Claim 1]

Pertaining to a tread skin of a pneumatic tire in which a tire tread part is divided into a groove part which is a tread groove part and an island part which is a tread island part, and a side wall of the island part is structured with a tread groove or a buttress part surface, containing a sipe, at least one end of which opens to a wall surface of the tread groove or the buttress part, the tread skin of a pneumatic tire characterized by the fact that it contains the narrow and shallow striations on the sipe inner wall which forms the inner side surfaces of a sipe, facing to each other, and at least one end of the striation opens to the tread groove wall surface or the buttress part along with the sipe.

[Claim 2]

Pertaining to a tread skin of a pneumatic tire which contains a tread groove on the tread surface and a sipe, at least one end of which opens to a wall surface of the tread groove or the buttress part on a tread island, which is surrounded by the

Numbers in the margin indicate pagination in the foreign text.

tread grooves or the tread grooves and the buttress parts, the tread skin of a pneumatic tire characterized by the fact that on the sipe inner wall surface forming inner side surfaces of a sipe, facing to each other, it contains a water-sucking striation which is narrow and shallow, extends in the tire diameter direction, whose one end opens to the tread surface along with the sipe, and a draining striation which is narrow and shallow, extends almost in parallel with the tire tread surface, whose at least one end opens to a wall surface of the tread groove or the buttress part along with the sipe, and that the water-sucking striation is connected to the draining striation.

3. Detailed Explanation of the Invention
[Industrial Field of Application]

This invention pertains to a tread of a tire excellent in the driving and braking performance on snowy or wet roads.

[Prior Art]

As a method to improve the driving and braking performance on snowy or wet roads, the method in which the sipe density of a tread surface is increased to reduce the rigidity of the tread part and improve the ground grabbing characteristic so that the friction coefficient is increased, the water film is destroyed due to the edge effect of sipes, and the draining effect of the sipe part is improved; and the method in which the draining effect is improved by increasing the ratio of the area where the

tread groove and the sipe open to the tread surface to the entire area of the tread part, are well-known.

For these sipes, an open type sipe in which both ends are connected to the tread peripheral grooves or the lateral grooves; an independent type sipe in which no ends are connected to the peripheral grooves and the like; and a semi-open type sipe in which only one end is connected to the peripheral groove, are available.

By increasing the number of sipes in the tire width direction, the ground grabbing characteristics of a tire is improved, which improves the driving and braking performance; however, when they touch the ground, the sipes are closed easily due to the deforming of the tread rubber, by which the drainage is hardly improved; and the driving and braking performance on wet roads is hardly improved. When the number of sipes is increased to improve the draining effect, the rigidity of the tire tread is drastically reduced, by which the handling stability is reduced, and the surface is worn unevenly on non-icy roads.

Therefore, as a method to improve the draining effect of the tread part without reducing the tread rigidity, Jikko #53022883 describes the method in which, by placing the sipes in the tire width direction and the sipes in the tire peripheral direction as the independent type sipes which are not connected to main

grooves, the tread rigidity is maintained high; the pressure inside the sipes is reduced by letting the air inside the sipes escape through the sipes in the tire peripheral direction when touching the ground; and the water of the water film on the road surface is absorbed inside the sipes so that the driving and braking performance on wet roads is improved.

In addition, Tokukai #61-261109 describes the method in which, by placing the semi-open type sipes which extend from the grooves in the tire peripheral direction to the width direction on the tread island part, and the escape holes whose diameter when stretched is larger than the sipe width in the end or the middle of the sipe cut, the rigidity can be even throughout the entire sipe cut, by which the driving and braking performance on snowy or wet roads can be improved, and the uneven wear of the tread can be prevented.

[Problems that the Invention is to Solve]

Since the sipes are closed once they touch the ground, even when the aforementioned diameter-direction sipes which connect the tire width direction sipes placed on the tread surface are placed, and the escape holes are placed in the end or the middle of the semi-open type sipes, the substantial draining effect from the sipes cannot be expected with these diameter direction sipes and the escape holes when contacting the ground; unless the sipe density is increased drastically, the driving and braking

performance on snowy or wet roads cannot be improved; thus, it is difficult to achieve the handling stability and the anti-wear characteristic of a tire at the same time.

Therefore, the purpose of this invention is to provide the tire in which its draining capability is maintained even when the sipes are closed when contacting the ground; without drastically increasing the sipe density, the driving and braking performance on snowy or wet roads is improved; and the handling stability, the anti-wear characteristic and the anti-uneven-wear characteristic are not affected.

[Means of Solving the Problems]

In order to attain the aforementioned purposes, the inventors of this invention studied hard; as a result, they discovered that, by leaving at least one end of the sipe open to a side surface of the tire peripheral groove or the buttress part, and by placing a narrow groove whose at least one end is open to the side surface of the peripheral groove on the inner side surface of the sipe, the water can be drained through the narrow groove on the inner side of the sipe even when the sipe is closed when touching the ground, which drastically increases the draining effect.

Pertaining to a tread skin of a pneumatic tire in which a tire tread part is divided into a groove part which is a tread groove part and an island part which is a tread island part, and

a side wall of the island part is structured with a tread groove or a buttress part surface, containing a sipe whose at least one end opens to a wall surface of the tread groove or the buttress part, the tread skin of a pneumatic tire in this invention is characterized by the fact that it contains the narrow and shallow striations on the sipe inner wall which forms the inner side surfaces of a sipe, facing to each other, and at least one end of the striation opens to the tread groove wall surface or the buttress part along with the sipe.

In addition, pertaining to a tread skin of a pneumatic tire which contains a tread groove on the tread surface and a sipe whose at least one end opens to a wall surface of the tread groove or the buttress part on a tread island which is surrounded by the tread grooves or the tread grooves and the buttress parts, the other tread skin of a pneumatic tire in this invention is characterized by the fact that on the sipe inner wall surface forming inner side surfaces of a sipe, facing to each other, it contains a water-sucking striation which is narrow and shallow, extends in the tire diameter direction, whose one end opens to the tread surface along with the sipe, and a draining striation which is narrow and shallow, extends almost in parallel with the tire tread surface, whose at least one end opens to a wall surface of the tread groove or the buttress part along with the

/57

sipe, and that the water-sucking striation is connected to the draining striation.

Next, the content of this invention is explained in detail using figures. Figure 1 is a quarter view of a part of the tread skin of the tire in this invention; Fig. 2 is an enlarged quarter view of the same part (a sipe part); Fig. 3 is its cross section (A-A); Figs. 4~7 are its cross sections (B-B). The item (1) is a tread groove placed on the tire tread surface, composed of a peripheral groove (la) extending in the tire peripheral direction and a lateral groove (1b) extending in the tire width direction. The lateral groove (1b) is placed connecting peripheral grooves (1a) or connecting a peripheral groove (1a) and a buttress part It is acceptable that only one end of the lateral groove (1b) is connected to a peripheral groove (1a) or a buttress part (3). The tread groove (1) does not necessarily need to be composed of a peripheral groove (1a) and a lateral groove (1b), as long as the tread part is divided into multiple tread island parts by tread grooves (1). On the tread island part (4) surrounded by the tread grooves (1) or the tread groove (1) and the buttress part (3), the sipes (5) composed of narrow grooves extending in the tire width direction are placed. At least one end of the sipe opens to the wall surface (2) of the tread groove (1).

On the sipe inner wall surfaces (6) forming the inner side surfaces of a sipe (5) facing to each other, the narrow and shallow striations (7) are placed. At least one end of the striation (7) is open to the wall surface (2) of the tread groove (1) or the buttress part (3); or at least one end is connected to the other striation which is open to the tread groove wall surface (2) or the buttress part (3). As shown in Fig. 3, the striations (7) can be placed on the sipe inner wall surfaces (6) facing to each other, or on one sipe inner wall surface (6). The shape of a cross section of the striation (7) is not limited; however, for example, as shown in Fig. 3, it can be a half The width and the depth of the striation (7) are not limited; however, it is preferable that the width of the striation (7) is 1.5~8 times as wide as the width of the sipe (5); and the depth of the striation (7) is 0.2~4 times as deep as the depth of the sipe (5).

The striations (7) can be arranged on the sipe inner wall surfaces (6) in various ways; Figs. 4~6 show the arrangement examples. In Fig. 4, a striation (7) is bent in the middle; one end is open to the tread groove wall surface (2) or the buttress part (3) along with the sipe (5); and the other end is open to the tread surface (8) of the tread island (4). In Fig. 5, the striation (7) is placed in parallel with the tread surface (8); both ends are open to the tread groove wall surface (2) or the

buttress part (3) along with the sipe (5). In Fig. 6, along with the bottom part of the sipe (5), a draining striation (7a) arranged in parallel with the tread surface (8) is placed; both ends are open to the tread groove wall surface (2) or the buttress part (3). At a right angle with the draining striations (7a), the water-sucking striations (7b) are placed; one end of the water-sucking striation (7b) is open to the tread surface (8) along with the sipe (5); the other end is connected to the draining striation (7a). In Fig. 7, the multiple parallel draining striations (7a) and the multiple parallel water-sucking striations (7b) are placed crossing.

The arrangement of the striations (7) on the sipe inner wall surface (6) is not limited to the aforementioned working examples, as long as at least one end of the striation (7) is open to the tread groove wall surface (2) or the buttress part (3), or one end is connected to the striation (7) which is open there.

[Operation of the Invention]

In the tread skin of a pneumatic tire in this invention, when the tread part touches the ground while driving on a wet road surface, due to the deforming of the tread rubber, the sipe (5) on the tread surface (8) is closed; however, the striations (7) placed on the sipe inner wall surfaces (6) are not closed;

through the striations (7), the water inside the sipes escapes to the tread grooves (1) or the buttress parts (3). When one end of the water-sucking striation (7) is open to the tread surface (8), /58 the water sucked from the opening part of the striation (7) on the tread surface (8) through the water-sucking striation (7b) escapes to the tread groove (1) or the buttress part (3) through the draining striation (7a) connected to it; thus, even when touching the ground, the draining passage between the tread part (8) and the tread groove (1) or the buttress part (3) is secured; thus, even after the sipes (5) are closed, it is possible to continue to dispose of the water on the tread part, improving the road grabbing characteristic of the tire on snowy or wet roads.

[Working Example]

Using the tire whose size is 10.00R20, which contains the tread pattern in Fig. 8, in which striations (7) are placed on the sipe inner wall surfaces (6) in the arrangement in Fig. 6 or 7, a braking performance test is conducted on the snowy and wet roads; and the results are shown in Table 1 as Working Examples 1~3. The test results using the tire in Comparison Example 1 which contains the same tread pattern and no striations (7) and the tire in Comparison Example 2 which contains the same tread pattern, no sipes (5) and no striations (7) are shown in Table 1 as well. The braking performance test is conducted as follows; the tires are installed in the front and rear wheel areas of an

8-ton truck; the distance it takes to stop by lock braking when driving at 30km/h on icy and wet roads with the JIS standard load is measured. The results are shown in indexes when the reciprocal number of the distance it takes to stop in Comparison Example 1 is set 100.

[Table 1]

	Working Example M			Comparison Example	
	1	2	3	1	2
Sipe size (mm) (thickness x depth) Water-sucking striation	0.7x16	0.7x16	0.7x16	0.7x16	none
(diameter mm x number of units) Draining striation	1.5x1	1.5x4	2.0x5	_	-
(diameter mm x number of units) Total number of sipes	3.0x1 440	2.0x3 440	2.0x3 440	- 440	_ 0
Braking performance index Icy road Wet road	119 117	122 121	130 122	100 100	81 93

[Effect of the Invention]

In the tread skin of a pneumatic tire in this invention, even when the sipes (5) on the tread surface (8) are closed when contacting the ground, the striations (7) are not closed; the draining passage between the tread surface (8) and the tread groove (1) or the buttress part (3) is secured; thus, it is possible to continue to dispose of the water on the tread surface, improving the driving and braking performance on wet and snowy roads. Therefore, the braking performance can be improved without increasing the sipe density, and the handling stability,

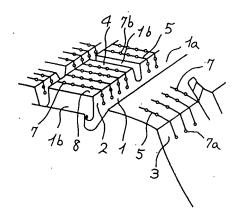
the anti-wear characteristic and the anti-uneven-wear characteristic are not affected.

4. Brief Explanation of Figures

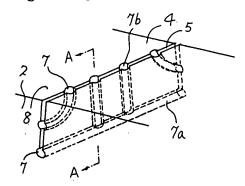
Figure 1 is a quarter view of a part of the tread skin of the tire in this invention; Fig. 2 is an enlarged quarter view of the same part; Fig. 3 is its cross section (A-A); Figs. 4~7 are its cross sections (B-B). Figure 8 shows the tread pattern of a working example of this invention.

- 1 ... Tread groove
- la ... Peripheral groove
- 1b ... Lateral groove
- 2 ... Wall surface
- 3 ... Buttress part
- 4 ... Tread island part
- 5 ... Sipe
- 6 ... Sipe inner wall surface
- 7 ... Striation
- 7a ... Draining striation
- 7b ... Water-sucking striation
- 8 ... Tread surface

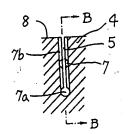
[Figure 1]



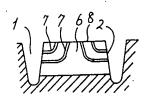
[Figure 2]



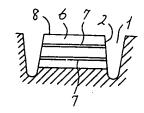
[Figure 3]



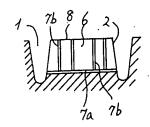
[Figure 4]



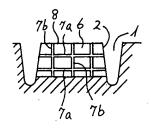
[Figure 5]



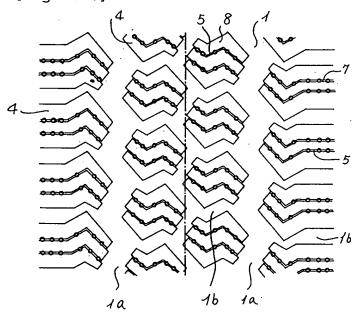
[Figure 6]



[Figure 7]



[Figure 8]



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